

United States Department of  
**COMMERCE**  
**NEWS**

Washington, D.C. 20230

ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION  
-----

U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
January 27, 2004

CB-04-11 **Press Copy**  
FT-900A (03-12)



**For information contact:**

Haydn Mearkle (301) 763-2246  
Nick Orsini (301) 763-2311

**Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products  
December 2003**

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$0.8 billion (1.5 million metric tons)** compared with \$0.8 billion (1.7 million metric tons) in the preliminary November report.

The November to December change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Brazil, and Canada.

The year to date final statistics through November 2003 showed steel imports of 19.4 million metric tons, a decrease of 7.6 million metric tons from the 27.0 million metric tons through November 2002. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and wire rods. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Russia, Mexico, Japan, and Korea.

**Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is February 24, 2004*